

**State of Vermont**  
**Executive Department**  
**A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS,** the diagnosis of many esophageal cancers has remained steady or declined, certain types of esophageal cancer diagnoses have increased in the United States in the past 20 years; and

**WHEREAS,** esophageal cancer has low survival rates because it is usually discovered at advanced stages when prognosis is poor; and

**WHEREAS,** esophageal cancer in the U.S. can be caused by persistent heartburn or gastro esophageal reflux disease (GERD), yet many who are at risk are unaware of the potential danger GERD can present when it occurs over time; and

**WHEREAS,** esophageal cancer can be a silent killer with patients often unaware that the cough, hoarse voice, sore throat or chest pain they suffer can be signs of GERD and reason to discuss screening for Esophageal Cancer with their medical care professional; and

**WHEREAS,** esophageal cancer can develop from GERD when acid from the stomach creates cellular change in the esophagus resulting in a precancerous condition known as Barrett's Esophagus which can lead to an increase in a patient's risk of developing esophageal cancer; and

**WHEREAS,** esophageal cancer can be prevented through early detection of its precursor, Barrett's Esophagus, which can be treated with new, curative techniques; and

**WHEREAS,** esophageal cancer awareness along with improvements in prevention, early detection and treatment strategies will enhance the health and well-being of all Vermonters;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim April, 2016 as

**ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of  
Vermont on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, A.D. 2016



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Peter Shumlin', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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Peter Shumlin  
Governor

